

OBITUARY

STANLEY NORMAN AFLALO JACOBS 1896–1989

Stanley Jacobs died on 14th September 1989, aged 92 years. Educated at St Dunstan's College, he pursued a wide range of professional activities beginning as an engineering apprentice before enlisting in the army, and serving in France during the First World War. After the war he turned his attention to agriculture, both in Canada and the UK working, amongst other things, in poultry farming and with stored product pests. Eventually he joined the family shipbroking business, where he remained until his retirement.

He worked for many years before and after retirement on curatorial duties at the British Museum (Natural History), and was editor of the *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* for 17 years between 1955 and 1973.

His association with this Society goes back over 60 years, and his influence on our development has been profound. The story starts in 1923 when he was returning home after a week's work in the country. As was usual when travelling, his net was tied to the top of his suitcase; this net was spotted by an entomologist, a Mr S. Abbot, who accosted him on London Bridge Station and persuaded him to apply for membership of the South London Entomological and Natural History Society. This he did, and was elected to membership on 28th June 1923, a year when Captain N.D. Riley was President; membership stood at a (then) record of 225 and trouble stalked the Society in the form of the landlord doubling the rent on the meetings rooms at the Hibernia Chambers. To meet this increase of £25 per year, annual subscriptions had to be raised to two shillings and six pence.

He first exhibited at an indoor meeting on 24th January 1924, showing '... a remarkably pale specimen of *Hybernia defoliaria* in which all marking was practically suppressed ...'; he attended meetings regularly and joined the Council of the Society in 1930, and in 1931 was appointed 'assistant to Stanley Edwards', succeeding him in 1932 to become Honorary Secretary jointly with H.J. Turner. In 1935 the role of Secretary was split, with Turner becoming 'Reporting Secretary' and Jacobs taking the job of 'Corresponding Secretary', a position he held until 1940 when his increasing work for the Police Force during the war years forced him to resign. During this period he published a number of papers in the *Proceedings and Transactions* including '*Aphomia gularis*', and 'The Microlepidoptera' in 1936, and translations of key papers by J. Klimesch on *Nepticula* (1936) and *Bucculatrix* (1938).

It was during the early war years that Jacobs, together with Captain F. Stanley-Smith, conceived the project that members of the Society specializing in the Microlepidoptera should produce a series of papers on identification which might eventually be brought together into a book — a venture which took nearly 40 years to reach fruition in the *Illustrated papers on British Microlepidoptera* published by the Society in 1978. Jacobs himself produced the first paper in the series with 'On the British species of the genus *Lithocolletis* Hb.' which was read to the Society on 9th July 1942. He based the paper on an earlier work by Le Marchand, illustrating the text with both line drawings of wing patterns and a colour plate based on his own paintings.

His talent as an amateur painter was used to the full during the *Illustrated papers* project, in which he painted nine out of the twelve plates published between 1944 and 1957. Of these he also wrote the text for five of them: in addition to the *Lithocolletis* paper, these were 'The British Lamproniidae and Adelidae' (1947); 'The British Oecophoridae (Part I) and allied genera' (1948); 'The British Oecophoridae (Part II)' (1949) and 'On the British Oecophoridae III' (1953). The other illustrations were for



Fig. 1. S.N.A. Jacobs 1896–1989. Photograph taken at the BM(NH) in 1983.

Wakely's 'Notes on the genus *Mompha*' (1944) and Ford's three papers 'The Psychidae' (1945), 'The Plutellidae' (1949) and 'The Glyphipterygidae and allied families' (1952).

Jacobs was elected President of the Society in 1944; his Presidential address was on 'Some recent imported insects', but he also took the opportunity to publish his *Lithocolletis* paper, read two years earlier. After serving on Council in 1946 and 1947, he joined the library committee in 1947, and was an assistant editor to the *Proceedings* between 1948 and 1950. By 1946 Jacobs, together with Wakely and a number of others were working on a major project on the Microlepidoptera, under the direction of L.T. Ford, which resulted in the issue, in 1949, of the Society's first

major publication, '*A guide to the smaller British Lepidoptera*'. This work, together with the supplement published in 1958 remained the microlepidopterist's *vade mecum* for 30 years until the publication of its successor, A.M. Emmet's '*A field guide to the smaller British Lepidoptera*', published in 1979, — to which Jacobs contributed both practically and financially.

He became President for a second time in 1954 when he took the opportunity to read his third illustrated paper on the British Oecophoridae. He was elected an honorary life member in 1967. Throughout his association with the Society he was a regular exhibitor and contributor to indoor meetings, and made many donations to the library and collections. He attended meetings well into his 80s, and the annual exhibition in his 90s!

I would like to conclude this brief memoir with a personal recollection. I first met Stanley in 1971, and will always remember the generosity of his advice, his company and wry sense of humour. He was fiercely independant and I recall many hair-raising trips through the London rush-hour, with Stanley at the wheel, to attend BENHS meetings. He was very disappointed when his doctor banned him from driving in 1979 but his resignation to house-bound immobility did not last very long. Feeling that 82 was really too young to, as he put it, 'prepare for pupation' he decided that two legs would be a reasonable substitute for four wheels, and continued to attend Society meetings and exhibitions for many further years. One incident reminds me of his determination: we were travelling to London by train for a BENHS meeting at around the time of his 85th birthday. The train broke down, and we were forced to walk down the track to Brixton station, a ten minute hobble in total darkness and cold drizzle. At the end of this I, some half a century his junior, was ready to pack up and go home. Stanley was not. He won.

PAUL SOKOLOFF

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Agrilus sinuatus* (Olivier) (Coleoptera:Buprestidae) widespread in Gloucestershire, and at a Herefordshire locality.** — Ian Carter (1986) added *Agrilus sinuatus* to the Gloucestershire list on the basis of specimens beaten from hawthorns on Leckhampton Hill, 29.vii.1985. Later in the same year he found the species at North Cerney and Whiteliff Park, Berkeley (Carter, pers.comm.). I examined the characteristic larval borings (see Figure 1) at the North Cerney site (SP 018088) — an area of unimproved limestone pasture with scattered old hawthorns — with him on 12.vi.1988. I have subsequently been examining dead hawthorn trunks widely in the county and have produced the following new records. Ravenswell Banks, Withington (SP 037164), 11.ix.1988, borings in dead hawthorn of old hedgerow above scrubby limestone pasture banks; Hornsleasow Roughs (SP 117326), 18.ix.1988, borings in old hedgerow hawthorn by expanse of rough unimproved pasture with frequent old hawthorns; Hick's Down, River Leach (SP 179077), 14.i.1989, borings in dead hawthorn within scrubby pasture; Cirencester Park (SO 995017), 11.ii.1989, borings in dead hawthorn in former hedgeline within permanent pasture; Woodbridge Banks, Withington (SP 046148), 9.iv.1989, borings in old hedge hawthorn; Sandhurst Nature Reserve (SO 817231), 20.viii.1989, very fresh